

family members and friends to abstain. Through a partnership with the American Dental Association, the program will be available nationally with the addition of a web-based version and a resource kit for dental professionals to use in their community.

Designating the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of dentistry the official national museum of dentistry in the United States will ensure the education of thousands of Americans about the importance of dental care.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this national treasure by passing H.J. Res. 52.

Thank you and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 52.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of House Joint Resolution 52.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BULGARIA

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 355) commemorating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Bulgaria.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 355

Whereas the United States established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Bulgaria on September 19, 1903;

Whereas the United States acknowledges the courage of the Bulgarian people in deciding to pursue a free democratic and independent Bulgaria and their steadfast perseverance in building a society based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a free market economy;

Whereas Bulgaria has promoted stability in the Balkans by rendering support to Operation Allied Force and Operation Joint Guardian led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and by providing peacekeeping troops to Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to Kosovo Force (KFOR) in Kosovo;

Whereas Bulgaria was among the very first countries to denounce terrorism and pledge active support to the United States in the fight against terrorism following the events of September 11, 2001;

Whereas Bulgaria provided overflight and basing rights at the town of Bourgas for Operation Enduring Freedom, representing the first stationing of foreign forces in Bulgaria since World War II, and Bulgaria deployed a nuclear, biological, and chemical protection detachment to Afghanistan as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF);

Whereas Bulgaria has stood firmly by the United States in the cause of advancing freedom worldwide during its tenure as a nonpermanent member of the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas Bulgaria agreed to each request of the United States and offered overflight and basing rights as well as transit of United States and coalition forces, and deployed a 500-man infantry battalion as part of a stabilization force in Iraq;

Whereas Bulgaria was recently invited to join NATO and has shown determination in enacting the continued reforms necessary to be a productive, contributing member of the Alliance;

Whereas Bulgaria strongly supports the strengthening of the trans-Atlantic link and considers it a basis for NATO unity and co-operation in countering new threats to global security; and

Whereas the Senate has recently given its consent with 96 votes to 0 for the ratification of the accession protocols of Bulgaria and six other aspirant countries from Central and Eastern Europe to NATO, thereby welcoming their contribution to common Euro-Atlantic security: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Republic of Bulgaria for developing increasingly friendly and meaningful relations with the United States over the past 100 years;

(2) recognizes the continued contributions of Bulgaria toward bringing peace, stability, and prosperity to the region of South Eastern Europe, including its contributions to regional security and democratic stability;

(3) salutes the willing cooperation of Bulgaria and its increasingly vital role as a valuable ally in the war against international terrorism; and

(4) encourages opportunities for greater co-operation between the United States and Bulgaria in the political, military, economic, and cultural spheres.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this Member rises today in strong support of H. Res. 355, a resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Bulgaria. This Member would like to commend the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for introducing this resolution. The gentleman's efforts have been crucial in recognizing and promoting the important relationship between Bulgaria and the United States. Indeed, his involvement and knowledge about Bulgaria go back more than a decade.

The United States established diplomatic relations with Bulgaria on September 19, 1903. Two weeks ago, a cele-

bration was held in Sofia marking this occasion. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Bulgarian people have made historic and courageous decisions and sacrifices in support of their desire to be a strong, diplomatic, and democratic member of Europe and a faithful ally and good friend of the United States.

□ 1600

Secretary of State Colin Powell recently stated that relations between Bulgaria and the United States are the best they have ever been in all of the past 100 years.

Indeed, Bulgaria is becoming an increasingly important strategic partner. Bulgaria has promoted stability and peace in Southeast Europe by supporting the NATO-led operations Allied Force and Joint Guardian in the Balkans. Bulgaria has also provided peacekeeping forces to SFOR in Bosnia and KFOR in Kosovo.

After the tragedy of September 11, 2001, Bulgaria was among the very first countries to denounce terrorism and pledge active support to the United States in the fight against terrorism by supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and the International Security Assistance Force, ISAF, in Afghanistan.

Bulgaria has supported Coalition operations in Iraq and is presently providing 500 infantry soldiers to the Iraq stabilization force. Furthermore, in a truly historic achievement, Bulgaria was invited to join NATO at the Prague Summit in November of last year. And Bulgaria has stood firmly with the United States in the cause of advancing freedom worldwide during its present term as a nonpermanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

President Bush recently stated, "Americans have always considered the Bulgarian people to be our friends, and we will be proud to call you," meaning the Bulgarian people, "our allies."

Madam Speaker, this Member wholeheartedly agrees with President Bush: Bulgaria has proven to be an active and contributing partner and a de facto ally. And this resolution affirms this important relationship on occasion of the 100th anniversary of U.S.-Bulgarian diplomatic relations.

Madam Speaker, in closing, this Member urges my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. First, I would like to commend my colleagues, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER) for their leadership on this resolution. With this resolution we celebrate the